



Making San Francisco Bay Better

January 27, 2009

The Honorable Douglas H. Bosco, Chair
California State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

SUBJECT: Funding Request by PRBO Conservation Science for Predicting the Effects of Sea Level Rise and Salinity Changes on San Francisco Bay Wetland Ecosystems

Dear Chair Bosco:

I am writing to recommend that the Coastal Conservancy approve a request for funding from PRBO Conservation Science for a project entitled, "Predicting the Effects of Sea Level Rise and Salinity Changes on San Francisco Bay Wetland Ecosystems."

Climate change will affect wetlands in the San Francisco Bay through sea level rise and seasonal salinity increases. These changes will transform tidal, freshwater and brackish wetlands into more saline systems and result in greater tidal inundation, thereby changing the plant species composition and habitat structure for birds and other wildlife. Bayland areas already filled, diked, and developed will severely restrict upslope migration of wetlands, resulting in smaller, more fragmented tidal marsh systems. PRBO's analysis will help identify opportunities to secure remaining habitat areas that will provide future value for tidal marsh plant and bird communities.

This information will be helpful to our Commission as we work to craft a regional strategy for adapting to the impacts of climate change in the Bay Area. Therefore, I fully support PRBO's proposal to predict the effects of sea level rise and salinity changes on San Francisco Bay wetlands and I urge the California Coastal Conservancy to fund it in full.

Sincerely,

WILL TRAVIS
Executive Director

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COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.



February 2, 2009

MANAGEMENT BOARD:

Bay Area Audubon Council
Bay Area Open Space Council
Bay Planning Coalition
Citizens Committee to
Complete the Refuge
Ducks Unlimited
National Audubon Society
PRBO Conservation Science
PG&E Corporation
Save San Francisco Bay
Association
Sierra Club
The Bay Institute
Urban Creeks Council

The Honorable Douglas H. Bosco, Chairman
California State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

SUBJECT: Funding Request by PRBO Conservation Science for Predicting the Effects of Sea Level Rise and Salinity Changes on San Francisco Bay Wetland Ecosystems

Dear Chairman Bosco,

I am writing on behalf of the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture in support of PRBO Conservation Science's "Predicting the Effects of Sea Level Rise and Salinity Changes on San Francisco Bay Wetland Ecosystems" Project and their pending funding request to the California Coastal Conservancy.

Ex-Officio Members:

Bay Conservation &
Development Commission
California Department
of Fish and Game
California Resources Agency
Coastal Conservancy
Coastal Region, Mosquito &
Vector Control District
National Fish and Wildlife
Foundation
National Marine Fisheries
Service
Natural Resources
Conservation Service
Regional Water Quality Control
Board, SF Bay Region
San Francisco Estuary Project
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
U.S. Environmental
Protection Agency
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Wildlife Conservation Board

The San Francisco Bay Joint Venture is a partnership of non-governmental organizations, utilities, landowners, and non-voting agencies with a goal of acquiring, restoring, and enhancing 200,000 acres of wetlands on San Francisco Bay and on the coasts of San Mateo, Marin, and Sonoma Counties. The San Francisco Bay Joint Venture is one of the fourteen wetland habitat Joint Ventures operating under the certification of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, a Congressional agreement between the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

Climate change will affect wetlands in the San Francisco Bay through sea level rise and seasonal salinity increases. These changes will convert tidal freshwater and brackish wetlands into more saline systems and result in greater tidal inundation, thereby changing the plant species composition and habitat structure for birds and other wildlife. PRBO's analysis will help identify changes to habitats that impact the goals established by the SFBJV and the populations that these habitats support. The information will better enable SFBJV partners to prioritize projects and develop restoration plans for wetlands in the SF Bay Area.

Thank you for considering this proposal. If you have any further questions about the SFBJV or our support of the PRBO proposal, please feel free to contact our Coordinator, Beth Huning.

Sincerely,

Diane Ross-Leech
Vice Chair



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex
9500 Thornton Avenue
Newark, California 94560
(510)792-0222

February 6, 2009

Ms. Michelle Jespersen
Project Manager, San Francisco Bay Program
California State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Ms. Jespersen:

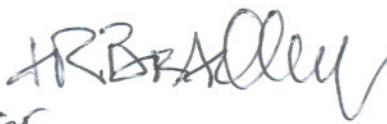
I am writing to express strong support for the grant application submitted to the California State Coastal Conservancy by PRBO Conservation Science to predict the effects of sea level rise and salinity changes on San Francisco Bay wetland ecosystems. This project will address a critical uncertainty in wetland restoration planning for San Francisco Bay.

The San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex and many partners, including the Coastal Conservancy, are embarking on a number of tidal wetland restoration projects in San Francisco Bay. Current projects include the 9,600-acre South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project, the largest tidal wetland restoration effort on the West Coast of the United States. The results and recommendations of this climate change investigation will be crucial in guiding future conservation planning for San Francisco Bay wetland habitats in the context of rapidly changing climate conditions.

In order to be successful, wetland restoration efforts must be able to meet conservation needs of numerous wetland species, taking into consideration potential wetland plant and bird species distributions under various climate change scenarios. It is crucial that land acquisition priorities and habitat restoration alternatives be guided by the best available assessment of climate change effects in San Francisco Bay to enable management decision-making that will meet short and long-term needs of wetland dependent wildlife.

The Refuge enthusiastically supports this proposal and encourages full consideration by the Coastal Conservancy.

Sincerely,


for
G. Mendel Stewart
Project Leader

Cc: Ellie Cohen, PRBO Conservation Science

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OAKLAND, CALIF.